

## FIVE QUESTIONS FOR Nuri Bilge Ceylan

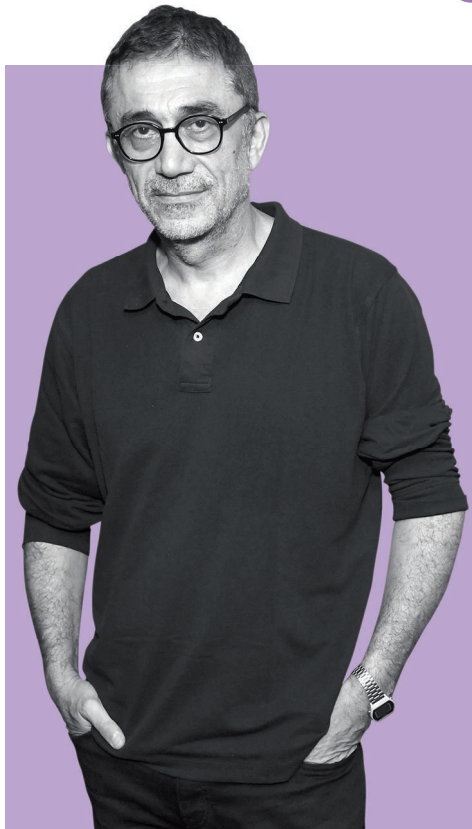
**TURKISH DIRECTOR** Nuri Bilge Ceylan was 36 when he made his first film, 'Cocoon', a low-budget short that was screened at Cannes. Twenty-three years on, this master filmmaker is basically a shoo-in on the Palme d'Or shortlist with every film he makes. The latest in his long line of eloquent, Turkey-set masterpieces is 'The Wild Pear Tree', the story of a young writer struggling to find his place in the world.

### 1 Where did the idea for 'The Wild Pear Tree' come from?

'I met the man who is the inspiration for Idris [the father in the film]. He's difficult, but a very intellectual character – a dreamer. That was the starting point, but I've wanted to make a film about the young people of Turkey for a long time. This story reminded me of my youth.'

### 2 You write with your wife, Ebru. After 'Winter Sleep' she said she wouldn't work with you again. What changed her mind?

'You know, marriage is always like that. You say things, but you always behave the opposite way. We wrote the dialogue together with Akin [Aksu, the co-writer]. For the finished script, I would take one sentence from her, one sentence from him and then another sentence was mine. It's all mixed up.'



### 3 Your films are all based around Turkish life. Would you ever make a film in another setting? Say, London's Turkish community?

'It's difficult – language is an important part of my filmmaking. As are all the details of the culture, and I don't know about the Turkish community in London or other countries. I have had offers from America and there are some actors that I'd like to work with, but if they don't speak Turkish, what do I do? Do I write a special script for them as tourists coming to Turkey? There should be something that forces me to tell the story.'

### 4 What's your biggest challenge as a director?

'Nobody in this world likes a long film, even the audience, and my films are getting longer. I never think about how long the film will be when I write, but in cinema it creates problems. "Winter Sleep" won the Palme d'Or but English television didn't take it, because it is long.'

### 5 What films do you watch to relax?

'Sometimes it's a Hollywood movie – something lightweight – and sometimes you're ready for something difficult. I take my 14-year-old son to see the Marvel movies. I lie to him [about them]. He asks if I like them, and I tell him yes.' ■ Interview by Greer McNally

→ 'The Wild Pear Tree' is out Nov 30.